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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002450

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/03/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY ON UNAMI AIRCRAFT: RECEPTIVE BUT NO FINAL
DECISION

REF: A. ANKARA 2008

[1](#)B. SILLIMAN-WILSON EMAIL OF APRIL 13

Classified By: DCM Nancy McEldowney for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) We and Washington have raised the UN's need for a C-130E aircraft for UNAMI with the GOT (refs). We have been receiving generally positive responses, but no firm answer yet. On May 3 MFA Deputy Iraq Coordinator Fazli Corman told us that MFA supported our initial request on March 24, but TGS expressed reservations. Recently, according to Corman, the UN itself requested Turkey provide the aircraft. (Our understanding is that this was done by diplomatic note in New York.) MFA again strongly supports Turkey's offering this asset and TGS is reconsidering.

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: We believe Turkey could eventually agree to provide the aircraft for UNAMI. For that to happen, however, the UN will need to advocate more strongly. If this is important to the UN, then the UN needs to make that clear to the GOT. In doing so, the chance of approval would be greater if the UN could agree that the aircraft be based in Turkey as opposed to Amman.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment cont.: One of TGS's concerns about providing this aircraft is likely the same as that MFA Iraq Coordinator Celikkol raised with us on April 10 (ref a) -- will the Iraqis accept this kind of military contribution by Turkey. We need to be able to assure the Turks that the Iraqis will not object to a Turkish military aircraft, crew and support personnel operating in Iraq. End comment.

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WILSON